

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /118 W

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R 021530Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9627

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

US MISSION NATO 459

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MINT, SP

SUBJ: PRINCE JUAN CARLOS TO PRESIDE AT COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS MEETING AUGUST 9

REF: MADRID 4853

1. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ANNOUNCED AUGUST 2 THAT PRINCE JUAN CARLOS, ACTING HEAD OF STATE, WILL PRESIDE AT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING AUGUST 9 IN EL PARDO PALACE. PREVIOUS EVENING IT HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT PRESIDENT ARIAS NAVARRO HAD CALLED FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING AT THE PRESIDENCIA FOR AUGUST 8. (PRESIDENT CUSTOMARILY HOLD MINISTERIAL MEETING ONE DAY PRIOR TO MEETING CHAIRED BY FRANCO.)

2. COMMENT: THIS WILL BE THE FIRST COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING TO BE PRESIDED OVER BY THE PRINCE AND THE SECOND TO BE PRESIDED OVER BY ANY OTHER THAN FRANCO HIMSELF,
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SINCE HE CAME TO POWER (THE FIRST WAS THE MEETING CHAIRED

BY ARIAS NAVARRO JULY 19, THE DAY THAT IT WAS DECIDED TO
MAKE PRINCE JUAN CARLOS THE ACTING HEAD OF STATE).
IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT SCHEDULED MEETING AUGUST 9 WILL BE
HELD IN FRANCO'S PALACE. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT
FRANCO HIMSELF WILL STILL BE IN TOWN. IT IS CLEAR,
HOWEVER, THAT PRINCE WILL STILL RETAIN INTERIM POWERS
AS ACTING HEAD OF STATE CONFERRED ON HIM JULY 19.
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING WILL PROBABLY BE THE ONLY
MEETING OF ITS TYPE DURING ENTIRE MONTH OF AUGUST
INASMUCH AS IT HAS BEEN TRADITIONAL TO HOLD ONLY ONE
SUCH MEETING DURING THE MONTH ALTHOUGH IT WAS CUSTOMARILY
HELD IN LA CORUNA, NOT FAR FROM FRANCO'S SUMMER RESIDENCE.
NORMALLY, THE FIRST SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF THE CABINET UNDER THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE HEAD OF STATE IS HELD AT THE SUMMER
CAPITAL OF SAN SEBASTIAN IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. APPARENTLY
IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT JUAN CARLOS WILL CONTINUE AS ACTING
HEAD OF STATE AT LEAST THROUGH PART OF AUGUST WHICH WOULD
ALLOW TIME FOR FRANCO TO RECOVER FULLY FROM HIS RECENT ILLNESS.
LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE MADE SOMETHING OF A FUSS ABOUT THE NUMBER
OF NEW LAWS PROMULGATED IN THE NAME OF PRINCE JUAN CARLOS IN
THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN. ALL OF THESE LAWS OF COURSE HAD BEEN
DECIDED UPON PREVIOUSLY. JUAN CARLOS DOES NOT AS YET
APPEAR TO BE WIELDING ANY REAL POWER, HOWEVER, AND THE
CHAIRING OF A COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN FRANCO'S PALACE,
RATHER THAN HIS OWN PALACE, TENDS TO PLACE EVEN THIS ACTION
UNDER FRANCO'S SHADOW.
RIVERO

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